million tonnes. The production of palm oil, bulk of which is of the industrial grade, is estimated to be around 3,000 MT.

(b) A statement which outlines some of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the overall shortage of edible oil is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

Some of the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of the edible oils are:—

(i) Two Centrally sponsored schemes, namely National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP) which were operating till 1989-90 have been merged during 1990-91 into a single scheme namely oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). This scheme essentially provides essential assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments and organising demonstration of advanced technology;

(ii) The oilseeds projects of the NDDB;

(iii) Setting up of a technology Mission on Oilseeds established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best production, processing and management technologies;

(iv) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds;

(v) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds;

(vi) Increasing the area under non-traditional oilseed crops like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(vii) Efforts for promoting oil palm cultivation;

(viii) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds; and

(ix) Fiscal incentives in the form of excise rebate for use of certain non-conventional oils in the manufacture of vanaspati so as to encourage increased exploitation of these sources of oils.

2289. [*Withdrawn*]

Corruption charges against NCCF Dy. Manager

2299. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to refer to reply to unstarred question No. 3136 in the Rajya Sabha on 19-12-91 and to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that the concerned Deputy Manager, NCCF constituted a Committee of his subordinates merely to legalise huge handloom supplies to a Kanpur based society under the garb of its name being recommended by the local RCS office thereby ignoring criteria equitable distribution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge kickbacks were distributed amongst staff of NCCF, Uttar Pradesh Handloom Corporation (UPHC) and the transporters;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Deputy Manager is being promoted as Manager on the face of bungling of a high order; and

(d) if so, the directions given by Government to NCCF in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) As stated in reply to Rajya Sabha UnstarredQuestion No. 3136 (Parts c, d, e, & f), the complaint alleging malpractices in the sale of

janata cloth involving some employees of NCCF is being investigated.

(c) The concerned Deputy Manager of the NCCF is still continuing in the post of Deputy Manager. However, alongwith some other officers in the NCCF, he has been given the functional designation of Manager for certain administrative reasons without any financial benefit. There is no proposal at present to promote him as Manager and place him in the higher grade.

(d) Does not arise.

Vanaspati Industry

2300. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to permit Vanaspati Industry to use mustard oil in edible oil to help reduce prices;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken so far by the Government to permit the use of mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati.

(c) The crop position and prices are constantly under watch and an appropriate decision in this regard will be taken on the basis of mustard seed availability.

Prices of edible oils

2301. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative prices of edible oils including Vanaspati in January, 1991 and January, 1992;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to contain the prices of edible oils; and

(c) what Government propose to do to augment the supply of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A comparative statement showing whole-sale prices of edible oils including vanaspati at Delhi Market is laid on the table as statement. (*See* below).

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices include granting of excise rebate in use of non-conventional oils in vanaspati, reduction of stock limits of edible oil seeds and oils by dealers/processors and manufacturers of all edible oils. State Governments have also been asked to undertake strict action against hoarders, black marketeers in edible oil seeds and oils. Apart from this, Central Government has constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply. Edible oils have, once again, been exempted from recent railway freight hike proposed in the Railway Budget for 1992-93.

(c) For augmenting the availability and acceptability of edible oils blending of one conventional edible oil with one refined non-conventional oils (like soyabean, cotton seed and safflower oils) has been permitted. For improving the availability of indigenous oils, Government is continuing with oilseed production programme, oilseed projects of NDDB, Setting up of Technology Mission on Oilseeds etc. Apart from this, with a view of augment supply of edible oils, Govcanment have decided to import 2.20 lakh MT of palmolein upto March 1992 through STC. In addition, State Governments have also been permitted to import a quantity of 80,000 MT of palmolein directly till March 1992.